

HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AMENDMENT NO. _____

Signature of Sponsor

AMEND Senate Bill No. 1315*

House Bill No. 965

FILED

Date _____

Time _____

Clerk _____

Comm. Amdt. _____

by inserting before the enacting clause the following language:

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee recognizes that local education agencies should have available effective tools to convey character education to students of all ages in their community; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly passed legislation in 1985 which provided character education as an aid to ensure students become good citizens; and

WHEREAS, recent disruptions in the classroom may be attributed to behavioral issues; and

WHEREAS, concern exists that the current character education statute is not being meaningfully utilized; now, therefore,

AND FURTHER AMEND by deleting all language after the enacting clause and by substituting instead the following:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-1007, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety and substituting instead the following new section:

(a) The course of instruction in all public schools shall include character education to help each student develop positive values and improve student conduct as students learn to act in harmony with their positive values and learn to become good citizens in their school, community, and society.

(b)(1) The state board of education shall provide the appropriate method of instruction in grades K through twelve (12), in conformity with the elementary school curriculum provided for in subsection (c).

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(2) Local boards of education may implement additional courses and materials in character education at their discretion.

(c)(1) Each local education agency shall provide the character education curriculum set forth in the curriculum provided by the Tennessee State Board of Education, or a comparable program approved by the state board of education.

(d) The Tennessee State Board of Education shall annually appear before the Joint Education Oversight Committee, to report the following:

(1) The number of schools in which character education was an integral part of the curriculum in the most recent academic year.

(2) The number of students receiving character education in the most recent academic year.

(3) A sample teaching method of character education used in the most recent academic year.

(4) A summary of the effectiveness of such teaching methods.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1998, the public welfare requiring it.

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